

JUNE 1995

OPEN ARMS

VOL. 7 NUMBER 6

..... MICHIANA'S LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

TOOT - TOOT Comin' at Choo for their third season. **Whistle Stop Cafe** is really on track with their opening game 15 - 10. The first run of the season was brought in by Lynette. A phenomenal play was at 1st, with Patti doing her ever favorite stretch number to out her runner. What form! What strength! Truly an exciting move. Kelly played a strong infield, getting the ball solidly to desired destinations. Pitching was accurately and dependably executed by Kim. Linda, Kim, and Patti each scored 3 runs. Rookies looked good.

2nd Game...we got beat, 4 - 8. Linda, Deb, Connie, and Vali gave us our 4 runs. It seems we wanted to hit everything to the left fielder...a very popular lady who, unfortunately, knew how to catch all too well.

3rd Game... we walked away with this one, due to some really beautiful plays. Home run by Susan, great double-play by Deb to Sharon to Patti. Deb really made this game happen with her one-woman wall of defense. Offensively, Deb was top scorer with 3 runs. Julie was caught in a run-down, between Third and Home. The catcher found herself closer to third than Julie and Julie made her break for home. Too exciting! The fans roared.

4th game was a disappointment. Another loss, which makes it appear that we are the

average, run-of-the mill team that we know we are not. Still, we made some really good plays. Deb hit 2 triples, Susan had a home run and a double and a triple, WOW. Tammy had 3 singles. Go Tammy. Marlene really highlighted the game with her big catch of that fly. She saved a home run and, I might add, did us proud.

About fans...We are getting a wonderful turn out. The support makes the game a whole lot more meaningful. Thank you. And a special thanks to our score keepers Cheryl and Marcia.

Apr 28 Whistle Stop Cafe vs Peddler's Pub
Score: 15 - 10

May 5 Whistle Stop Cafe vs DRC
Score: 4 - 8

May 12 Whistle Stop Cafe vs Ireland Rd.
Score: 13 - 1

May 19 Whistle Stop Cafe vs Bonnie Jewel
Score: 11 - 7
Record: 2-2



COMMUNITY EVENTS

VIDEO NIGHT

Canceled for the summer due to the softball season.

3RD FRIDAY OUT

Call Jackie for info
Saturday, June 17th
7:00 p.m.

For reservations, call Jackie by Wednesday,
June 14th, at (219)-291-5837

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday

* MEETS AT A NEW LOCATION *

7-9 p.m.

For info, write:

LSG

P.O. Box 1612

Mishawaka, IN 46544

Bingo/Potluck

Bring your "good luck" charms and a dish to
pass on Saturday, June 24th. Come at 5:00,
we will eat at 5:30, bingo at 6:30

Call 287-4548 for directions.

EVENTS COORDINATORS

Third Friday Out: Jackie (219)-291-5837

Video Night: Gloria & Julie (616)-695-7311

Game Night:

Sunday Brunch: Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-
0338

OPEN ARMS STAFF

Sheree (616)-684-6365

Kaye & Marcia (219)-271-0338

Advertising: Kaye & Marcia

Subscriptions: Kaye & Marcia

WOMEN'S SOLSTICE CELEBRATION WEEKEND

Fri-Sun, Jun. 9, 10 11, 1995

\$255 to OASIS Center, 7463 N. Sheridan Rd.,
Chicago, IL 60626 (312) 274-6777

Game Night/Potluck

If you would like to have a game night/potluck
at your home, call Barb at 287-4548 on
weekends.

EDITORIAL POLICY

We may edit any article submitted for length or
content. We ask that all articles submitted be
signed and typed, but will respect the wishes
of the author by not printing her name if so
requested.

PLEASE TYPE SUBMISSIONS IF POSSIBLE

If it is possible for you to type your
submissions on a letter quality typewriter or
printer, please do so using a 55 space line.
This will make layout much easier. Thanks.

Whistle Stop Cafe Schedule

Date	Team	Time	Park
Apr 28	Peddler's Pub	6:30	Boehm
May 5	DRC Corp	7:30	Boland
May 12	Ireland Rd Church	6:30	Boland
May 19	Bonnie Jewel Agency	7:30	Boehm
Jun 2	Martin's	6:30	Boland
Jun 9	Chevron Cafe	6:30	Boehm
Jun 16	Dee Ken's	7:30	Boehm
Jun 23	Peddler's Pub	7:30	Boland
Jun 30	DRC Corp	6:30	Boland
Jul 7	Ireland Rd Church	7:30	Boland
Jul 14	Bonnie Jewel Agency	7:30	Boehm
Jul 21	Martin's	7:30	Boehm
Jul 28	Chevron Cafe	6:30	Boland
Aug 4	Dee Ken's	6:30	Boehm



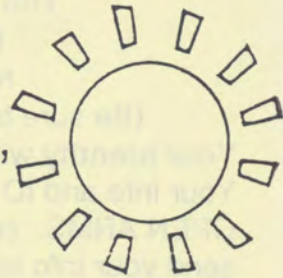
"Lavender Rhythm Summer Dance"

Place: Milton Township Community Hall,
Niles, MI

Date: June 17, 1995

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Ind. Time
8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Mich. Time

Admission: \$5.00 at the Door ONLY



A Wimmin's
Event

(no advance tickets)

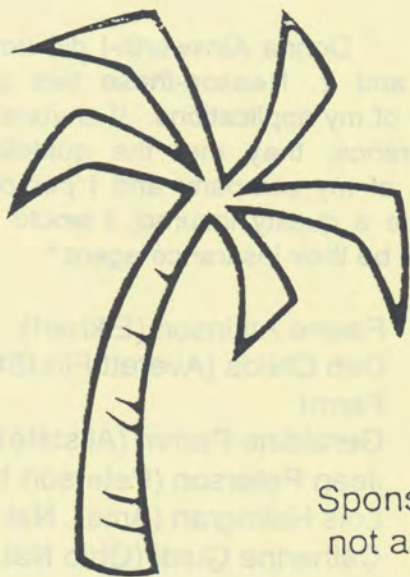
**Music by
DJ**

Refreshments
Door Prizes

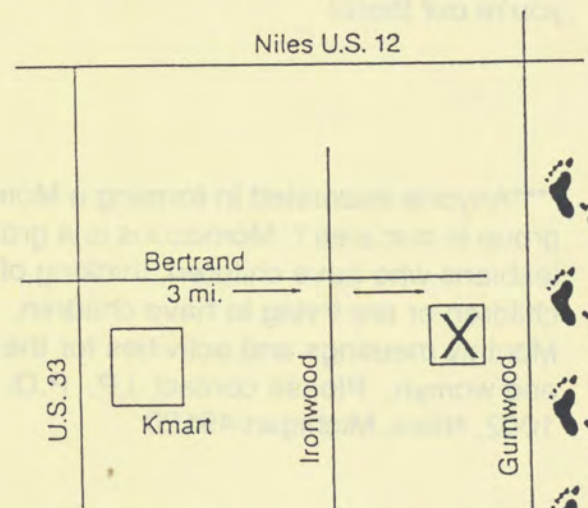


Volunteers Needed

Call 616 - 684 - 7362 for information.



BYOB



Sponsored by the "**Lavender Rhythm**"
not affiliated with any group or organization.

Disclaimer: Lavender Rhythm or Milton Township are Not Responsible for Alcohol Related Incidents.

COURT OF FRIENDS

SINGLES

O.K. all you singles! Here's your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you, what you are looking for in another (be brief), and send to:

**The Court of Friends
P.O.Box 1281
Niles, MI 49120**

(Be sure to include your address.)

Your identity will be assigned an ID number. Your info and ID number will be published in OPEN ARMS. (It would be helpful if you would send your info early in the month so that it can be published in the next month's issue.) Also, O.A. reserves the right to edit, if necessary, for publication.

Those wishing to respond to an ID Single may do so by writing whatever you wish, putting it in a stamped, sealed envelope with the intended ID number on the front (in pencil). Place your message in another stamped envelope and mail to the above P.O.Box.

Upon receiving your message, the ID number will be replaced with the corresponding name and address and mailed. Then you're on your own. **COME ON SINGLES!** *Someone special wants to know you're out there!*

****Anyone interested in forming a Momazons group in our area? Momazons is a group for lesbians who have children, thinking of children or are trying to have children. Monthly meetings and activities for the children and womyn. Please contact J.P. P.O. Box 1002, Niles, Michigan 49120

Consumer Information from TLC (The Lesbian Committee of NOW)

Each month The Lesbian Committee intends to survey 8-10 similar businesses or services in your area in order to identify those businesses that are lesbian/gay friendly. We will then make the list of businesses who responded within the deadline, and those who did not, available to the local lesbian/gay newsletters. In addition, TLC will compile an annual directory of lesbian/gay-friendly businesses and distribute it to local lesbian/gay organizations.

"Women and Insurance" If you and your beloved are searching for insurance for house, car, health, or whatever, you might consider the information we've collected. This month we polled women insurance agents regarding their views about lesbians and gay men as clients and employees. We asked the usual questions and sent a SASE for easy reply.

1. Do you welcome lesbians and gays at your business?
2. Would you hire a person who was qualified for an open position if you knew they were lesbian or gay?
3. If it came to your attention that one of your employees was a lesbian or gay, would you retain them in the same position?

Yes to all three: Karen Cook (Taylor and Moyer)
Christine Majewski (Farmers Insurance Group)
Bonni Menting (State Farm)- "I welcome all individuals from the community regardless of race, religion, age, or sexual orientation. I try to judge people based on their merits and personal performance."

Yes, but... Donna Ainsworth-I did not answer questions 1 and 2. Reason-these two questions aren't on any of my applications. If anyone came to me for insurance, they met the guidelines and qualifications of my company and I personally felt they would be a quality insured, I would be more than happy to be their insurance agent."

No Reply: Fawne Atkinson (Elkhart)
Deb Childs (Averett Fin./State Farm)
Geraldine Parhm (Allstate)
Jean Peterson (Peterson Ins.)
Lois Holmgran (Amer. Nat.)
Catherine Guidi (Ohio Nat.)

rights update

A rise in legislation and court cases seeking to deny the rights of lesbians and gays to create families reveals the true agenda of zealots preaching "family values." Are their own families so devoid of love and fulfillment that they find the slightest deviation from their own family model an intolerable threat? There is a strong backlash against lesbian and gay families; however, in several states, people are succeeding in establishing rights (or at least staving off the worst of the damage).

Foster children in Nebraska can no longer be placed in the homes of people identifying themselves as homosexuals or in homes where unrelated and unmarried adults live together, according to an announcement by the State Director of Social Services, Mary Dean Harvey. The move was widely viewed as a victory for conservative Christian groups, which have made gay foster parents an issue, with the support of the governor.

While Harvey's instructions are only advisory, regulations are being drafted to formalize them. Ironically, Nebraska has been chronically short of homes for foster children. Of the 4,231 children now under the care of the Department of Social Services, 2,462 are in foster homes. Until now, the Department has not kept records on the sexual orientation of foster home guardians. State Senator Kate Witek (R-Omaha) is sponsoring a bill that would limit foster parents to married heterosexual couples or single people living alone. (*New York Times* 1/29/95).

In California, adoption for gay couples is now banned by a new state policy restricting adoption to only those couples "who have formalized their relationship through a legal marriage." Governor Pete Wilson (R) reversed a directive made only in December 1994, instructing social workers that the most important criteria was that a couple display a "stable and permanent home." Californian activists say the reversal is directly tied to Wilson's possible

presidential bid and a ploy to gain more support from the Republican right. Last year, he vetoed a statewide domestic partner bill, saying it would "discount marriage." A coalition of gay-rights organizations plan to fight the directive; Alissa Friedman of the ACLU says "We will respond. This is not the end of the story." A similar law was recently passed in South Carolina, explicitly banning "a homosexual or bisexual" from adopting a child or being a foster parent. (*Washington Blade*, 3/17/95)

A Seattle, Washington gay couple adopted a 4-year-old boy after their custody was challenged by the boy's mother. Ross and Luis Lopton had been the child's foster parents since his mother gave up her parental rights to the state. But when she found out that his new parents were a gay couple, she tried to regain her parental rights and filed a request with the Superior Court, which denied her request. The Supreme Court refused to hear her appeal. Washington is one of only six states permitting adoptions by same-sex couples. (*New York Times* 12/27/94)

The Loptons were just in time, however; a Washington bill is being considered which would ban adoptions or foster parenting in the home of a gay couple; in addition, the bill would allow family court judges to deny a parent custody of her child based solely on her sexual orientation.

In anticipation of Hawaii legalizing same-sex marriage, the radical right has already started taking action to ensure that other states will not recognize same-sex marriages formalized in Hawaii. South Dakota and Utah are the first to respond. After a lobbying sweep by local South Dakota gay-rights groups and help from national gay groups, the state Senate refused to bring to the floor a bill banning same-sex marriages. In Utah, however, the state Senate approved of a similar bill 24-1 after it passed in the House 62-1.

On September 25, the Hawaii Supreme Court will begin hearing the trial of three lesbian and gay couples

who filed suit in 1991 after being denied marriage licenses. In 1993, the Court ruled that the denial violated the state Constitution and told the state to come back with a "compelling" reason why the state should prohibit same-sex marriages. If same-sex marriages are legalized in Hawaii, the legislatures in other states will have to decide whether to recognize such marriages as legal. Since the Hawaiian Supreme Court's decision won't be made until sometime in 1996, this fight is only beginning. (*Washington Blade* 3/7/95)

The fight is still on in Oregon, with a bill that would prohibit any local government from passing "laws, rules, regulations, or policies" providing benefits to partners in "any sexual relationship" other than marriage.

Several states are considering anti-hate crime bills, and bills prohibiting discrimination against gays in the workplace. Wyoming, Montana, Connecticut, Louisiana, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Texas have hate crime bills pending; Nebraska, Arizona, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, New York and Maine are considering bills banning job discrimination and/or discrimination against lesbians and gays in employment, housing, public accommodation, and credit. (*Washington Blade*, 3/10/95)

In the courts, legislatures, and on the streets the fight to gain recognition for lesbian and gay families is being waged. We are families, despite the Mormon-run Utah state legislature's hateful and damaging denial. —info from *Off Our Backs*



IN THE NEWS

Antioch (OH) with 650 students, 70% wimmin, uses self-governing principles and supports a strong lesbian community. "No one denies that women run Antioch, politically and sexually.

Labor Secretary Robert Reich ruled for the women who sued Honeywell for sexual discrimination. Reich said Honeywell assigned jobs by gender in its Minneapolis and St. Paul plants from 1972 to 1977. The case has been with the Labor Department since 1977.



ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising in Open Arms runs on a calendar year basis and our advertisers will be receiving renewal notices soon. Since our rates are so low (\$10 per year, or more if you can afford it, for a business-card size ad) we don't pro-rate the fee on a less than 6 month basis. If you submit your ad between January and June, the full year rate will apply; between July and December the rate will be half the yearly rate.

LESBIAN HEALTH NEWS (A publication)

Lesbian Health News is a bimonthly newsletter launched in November 1993 to bring awareness to the lesbian community about womyn's well-being. To that end it publishes information about health issues specific to lesbians, medical conditions and related problems that affect womyn, diseases or health problems associated with advancing age, and topics germane to caregivers. The newsletter covers disease analysis, and patient/survivor testimonies.

LHN has printed topics such as breast cancer, AIDS/HIV, lesbian motherhood, menopause, and battered lesbians to name a few. We plan on covering a wide range of issues such as obesity, mental health, recovery, disabilities, spirituality, durable powers of attorney concerning health care, aging, bereavement and manic depression, to name a few. *LHN* is looking for personal and professional stories for our publication. Confidentiality is assured! If you care to share your story with us please feel free to contact us at the address listed below. We are interested in exchanging publications. *Thank you.*

Lesbian Health News, P.O. Box 12121 Columbus, OH 43212. 614-481-7656 -- Subscription (sliding scale) \$12/25 per year -- Sample Copy \$2.00 -- Cassette \$5.00



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Sandy Berta - Owner

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Call about special pre-opening rates in May.
Book now for Holland, Michigan Tulip Festival, May 4th-14th.

Saugatuck on the river...

DEERPATH LODGE

...an enchanting retreat

Deerpath Lodge sits atop a dune overlooking the Kalamazoo River. Surrounding evergreens, oaks, and an extensive wildflower garden provide a rustic charm. The river and 45 acres seclude our private retreat from public access. Saugatuck, the infamous art colony, and mecca of innovative shops and restaurants is just five minutes by car, longer by boat. We offer three spacious guest rooms, each with private bath; one with kitchenette. A wholesome breakfast is provided.

Guest Rooms For Women

For Reservations & Information:
P.O. Box 849 Saugatuck, Michigan 49453
1-616-857-DEER

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P.O. Box 1173
Goshen, IN 46527

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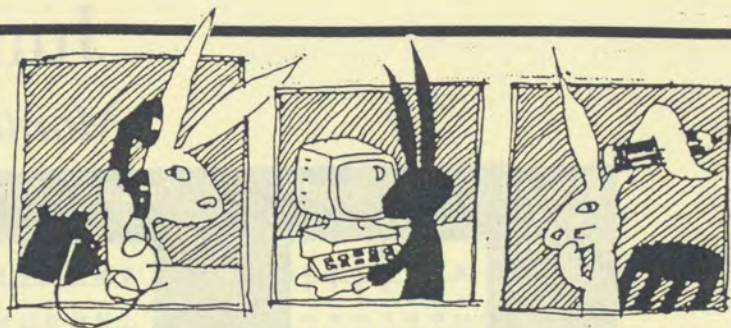
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Duneswood



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Glen Arbor, MI 49636

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DRIFT-WOODS COTTAGES

Two-bedroom and one-bedroom cottages available on Lake Michigan, ten minutes south of Saugatuck, Michigan. The cottages are open year around, are fully furnished, have well-equipped kitchens, and linens and towels are provided for bedroom and bath. The living rooms have gas log fireplaces. Gas grills are provided for outdoor barbeques. The beach is accessible via stairs. Hiking trails, sand dunes, cross-country skiing, shops galleries, restaurants, antique shopping nearby. Call Susan for weekend, mid-week, weekly visits at (616) 857-2586.

June 1995

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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11 Open Arms Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	12	13 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	14 Reservations due for Third Sat. Out	15	16 Softball Boehm Park 7:30 p.m.	17 Third Saturday Out 7:00 p.m. DANCE in Niles starts at 7:00 p.m.																																																																																											
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25 PFLAG Meeting 2:00-4:00 p.m.	26	27 Support Group 7:00 p.m.	28	29	30 Softball Boland Park at 6:30 p.m.																																																																																												

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MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

OPEN ARMS DEADLINE/MEETING

The deadline for submissions for the July *Open Arms* is June 10th. Submissions can be mailed to Open Arms, P. O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN 46546 or given to Sheree or Kaye. Submissions received after June 10th may not be published in the July newsletter.

Newsletter meeting: Sunday, June 11th, 1995, at 6:30p.m. Call 271-0338 for directions.